

Amendments to the CLAIMS

Claims 1-56 (canceled)

Claim 57 (new): A biopsy device for tissue collection, comprising:

a housing containing a power source; and

a removable element, comprising a biopsy needle module
and a pressure source, wherein the removable
element is configured for integration into the
housing;

wherein the biopsy device can be held in a single hand of a
physician, having no cables or lines extending from
the housing to external units.

Claim 58 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 57, wherein
the biopsy needle module comprises a biopsy needle and a cutting sleeve, the
biopsy needle comprising a sharpened distal end and a distal opening for collection
of tissue, the cutting sleeve having a cutting blade on the distal end thereof and
being coaxially positioned with respect to the biopsy needle.

Claim 59 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 58, wherein
the pressure source comprises a vacuum pressure-generating device having a
piston/cylinder arrangement, the vacuum pressure-generating device being
connected to a proximal end of the biopsy needle via a connecting element, forming
an airtight connection therewith.

Claim 60 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 58, further
comprising a clamping carriage contained within the housing.

Claim 61 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 60, wherein the biopsy needle module can be connected to the clamping carriage such that the biopsy needle module is longitudinally displaceable by the clamping carriage.

Claim 62 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 61, further comprising a first and second drive unit contained within the housing.

Claim 63 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 62, wherein the clamping carriage is connected to the first drive unit.

Claim 64 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 63, wherein the cutting sleeve is connected to the first drive unit, the cutting sleeve being axially movable relative to the biopsy needle.

Claim 65 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 57, wherein the power source comprises at least one battery.

Claim 66 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 57, wherein the housing comprises a lower housing segment with lateral walls of different heights, a housing lid matched to the lower housing segment and having a longitudinally displaceable locking mechanism, and a first and second end lid, each connected to the lower housing segment.

Claim 67 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 66, wherein the first housing lid comprises a U-shaped opening at the top thereof, the opening sized to receive a portion of the removable element.

Claim 68 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 68, wherein the second housing lid comprises a first and second U-shape opening at the top thereof, wherein each of said opening is sized to receive a portion of the removable element.

Claim 69 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 57, further comprising a control panel attached to the housing, wherein the control panel is connected to the power source.

Claim 70 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 69, wherein the control panel is connected to a circuit board.

Claim 71 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 70, wherein the circuit board has a programmable microprocessor disposed thereon.

Claim 72 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 70, wherein the control panel comprises a control key for actuating a clamping cradle, a program key for actuating a tissue sampling procedure and a clamping key for triggering clamping of the clamping cradle.

Claim 73 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 72, wherein the program key is positioned between the control key and clamping key to avoid accidental actuation of the clamping cradle.

Claim 74 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 72, wherein each of the keys has a light associated therewith that indicates whether the key is active.

Claim 75 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 72, wherein the clamping key is equipped with a delay circuit to prevent inadvertent pressing thereof.

Claim 76 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 60, wherein a locking mechanism is contained within the housing to lock the clamping cradle, the locking mechanism comprising a handle having an arm, wherein the arm locks into a depression in the clamping cradle.

Claim 77 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 76, wherein the clamping cradle is comprised of a plastic material and the handle is comprised of a metal material, wherein a metal part is positioned within the depression.

Claim 78 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 76, wherein actuation of the clamping cradle causes the biopsy needle to penetrate into a patient a predetermined distance.

Claim 79 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 78, wherein the clamping cradle can be set to penetrate at a plurality of distances.

Claim 80 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 79, wherein the clamping cradle can be set to penetrate a distance which is in the range between approximately 15 mm and 25 mm.

Claim 81 (new): A biopsy device for tissue collection, comprising:

- a housing containing a power source; and
- a removable element configured for integration into the housing, comprising:
 - a biopsy needle module comprising a biopsy needle and a cutting sleeve, the biopsy needle comprising a sharpened distal end and a distal opening for collection of tissue, the cutting sleeve having a cutting blade on the distal end thereof and being coaxially positioned with respect to the biopsy needle, and
 - a pressure source comprising a vacuum pressure-generating device having a piston/cylinder arrangement, the vacuum pressure-generating device being connected to a proximal end of the biopsy needle via a connecting element, forming an airtight connection therewith,

wherein the biopsy device can be held in a single hand of a physician, having no cables or lines extending from the housing to external units.

Claim 82 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 81, further comprising a clamping carriage contained within the housing.

Claim 83 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 82, wherein the biopsy needle module can be connected to the clamping carriage such that the biopsy needle module is longitudinally displaceable by the clamping carriage.

Claim 84 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 83, further comprising a first and second drive unit contained within the housing.

Claim 85 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 84, wherein the clamping carriage is connected to the first drive unit.

Claim 86 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 85, wherein the cutting sleeve is connected to the first drive unit, the cutting sleeve being axially movable relative to the biopsy needle.

Claim 87 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 82, wherein a locking mechanism is contained within the housing to lock the clamping cradle, the locking mechanism comprising a handle having an arm, wherein the arm locks into a depression in the clamping cradle.

Claim 88 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 87, wherein the clamping cradle is comprised of a plastic material and the handle is comprised of a metal material, wherein a metal part is positioned within the depression.

Claim 89 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 87, wherein actuation of the clamping cradle causes the biopsy needle to penetrate into a patient a predetermined distance.

Claim 90 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 89, wherein the clamping cradle can be set to penetrate at a plurality of distances.

Claim 91 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 90, wherein the clamping cradle can be set to penetrate a distance which is in the range between approximately 15 mm and 25 mm.

Claim 92 (new): A biopsy device for tissue collection, comprising:
a housing containing a power source and a circuit board;
a control panel attached to the housing, wherein the control panel is connected to the power source and the circuit board; and
a removable element, comprising a biopsy needle module and a pressure source, wherein the removable element is configured for integration into the housing;
wherein the biopsy device can be held in a single hand of a physician, having no cables or lines extending from the housing to external units.

Claim 93 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 92, wherein the circuit board has a programmable microprocessor disposed thereon.

Claim 94 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 92, wherein the control panel comprises a control key for actuating a clamping cradle, a program key for actuating a tissue sampling procedure and a clamping key for triggering clamping of the clamping cradle.

Claim 95 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 94, wherein the program key is positioned between the control key and clamping key to avoid accidental actuation of the clamping cradle.

Claim 96 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 94, wherein each of the keys have a light associated therewith that indicates whether the key is active.

Claim 97 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 94, wherein the clamping key is equipped with a delay circuit to prevent inadvertent pressing thereof.

Claim 98 (new): A biopsy device for tissue collection, comprising:

a housing containing a power source, wherein the housing comprises a lower housing segment with lateral walls of different heights, a housing lid matched to the lower housing segment and having a longitudinally displaceable locking mechanism, and a first and second end lid, each connected to the lower housing segment; and

a removable element, comprising a biopsy needle module and a pressure source, wherein the removable element is configured for integration into the housing;

wherein the biopsy device can be held in a single hand of a physician, having no cables or lines extending from the housing to external units.

Claim 99 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 98, wherein the first housing lid comprises a U-shaped opening at the top thereof, the opening sized to receive a portion of the removable element.

Claim 100 (new): The biopsy device according to claim 99, wherein the second housing lid comprises a first and second U-shape opening at the top thereof, wherein each of said opening is sized to receive a portion of the removable element.